

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

**ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE DELIVERS STATE OF EDUCATION  
SPEECH – LAUNCHES THE AIMS HOTLINE FOR ARIZONA STUDENTS;  
CALLS FOR THE END OF SOCIAL PROMOTION; A PAY INCREASE FOR  
TEACHERS; AND PROMOTES INCREASE IN RIGOROUS CURRICULUM**

PHOENIX (Wednesday, January 4, 2006) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today delivered his third annual “State of Education” speech. Horne reviewed his “Promises Made, Promises Kept” pledge made and kept in each of his first three years in office, and announced three new initiatives for his fourth year in office.

“Promises made and kept from last year include effective school intervention, a program to encourage adult volunteers in the schools, better technological support for teachers, better training for teachers in mathematics, and expanded career and technical education.”

Horne’s three new initiatives: 1) Massive efforts to ensure that every student receives the help necessary to acquire skills needed to pass AIMS and succeed in today’s economy, including a toll-free statewide AIMS Hotline and web address; 2) Higher compensation for teachers; and 3) Increase in the number of students taking a rigorous curriculum. The AIMS Hotline number is: 866-688-AIMS. The web address for AIMS-related questions is [www.azaims.gov](http://www.azaims.gov).

Horne will deliver his first speech at Cortez High School in the Glendale Union High School District in the morning at 9:30 a.m. and then in Southern Arizona at 1:30 p.m. at Sahaurita High School. The schools are Title 1 (high poverty) and both are “Highly Performing” under the AZ LEARNS accountability system.

A complete copy of Horne’s speech is attached.

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